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## PERSPECTIVES

### PAKISTAN AND THE REFUGEES

[REDACTED]

Afghan refugees in Pakistan have not become a heavy economic or political liability for Islamabad. Frictions between them and Pakistanis could grow, however, and lead to serious problems for Islamabad in some circumstances. A sharp increase in tensions between Pakistanis and the refugees would erode political stability in Pakistan and perhaps cause Islamabad to seek an accommodation on the Soviet presence in Afghanistan with Kabul and Moscow. [REDACTED]

#### The Refugees

Pakistani Government registration figures indicate that about 2.8 million Afghans are in Pakistan. [REDACTED] multiple registrations, the registration of nonexistent dependents, and the return of some registered refugees to Afghanistan have inflated this figure. Based on reports of discrepancies between registrations and numbers actually in some refugee camps, [REDACTED] between 1.75 and 1.9 million Afghans are in Pakistani refugee camps. [REDACTED]

New refugees continue to arrive in Pakistan but, according to Pakistani officials, the rate is now 2,000 to 3,000 a month compared to 100,000 or more a month a few years ago. Heavy fighting near the border can still bring a surge--170,000 in the last four months of 1983--but we believe most of these refugees return home when military operations die down. [REDACTED]

Most of the predominately Pushtun refugees reside in areas of Pakistan where cultural differences with the local population are minimal. About three-fourths are in the North-West Frontier Province near the Afghan border, and most of the remainder are in Baluchistan, primarily in Pushtun areas. Less than 2 percent are in Punjab and Sind Provinces. Islamabad plans to transfer about 300,000 refugees to camps in western Punjab, but less than 100,000 had moved by early February. [REDACTED]

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